

REMARKS

Claims 13-19 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-12 and 20-22 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 13 and 16-18 are amended. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification including the original claims and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-12 and 20-22 are canceled, and thus the rejection is moot with respect to these claims. The Examiner's comments have been addressed in amending claims 13-14 and 16-17. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action objected to claim 18 because of an informality. The Examiner's comments have been addressed in amending claim 18. Accordingly, the rejection objection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-9, 11-12, and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Glitho, U.S. Patent No. 5,544,154 and rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Glitho in view of Regnier et al. (hereinafter "Regnier"), U.S. Patent No. 5,930,348. Claims 1-12 and 20-22 are canceled, and thus these rejections are moot.

The Office Action rejected claims 13-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Glitho in view of Qiu et al. (hereinafter "Qiu"), U.S. Patent No. 5,615,254. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Glitho discloses a method for determining the load induced by a routing verification test on a network. In columns 4-5, Glitho explains how the network works. Glitho discloses a switching network 10 including six switching nodes or signaling transfer points labeled 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, and 22. Glitho teaches that at each of the nodes 12-22, the network includes a routing table associated with the node for routing a signal along one or more link sets to a subsequent node in the routing of the signal within the network. The "routing table" includes a primary link set and an alternative link set. Glitho shows an example of a routing table in Figure 2 for each of the nodes 12-20. The "routing table" includes a primary link set defined as the preferred or primary route along which a message or a signal is transferred from the node defined in the left most column. The right most column indicates alternative link sets along which a signal will pass or travel in the event the primary path is either disabled, busy, or out of service. Glitho notes that the routing table information is both static and partial path. Thus, the Glitho method and apparatus base its link selection on data utilized to create the table and on link availability.

It appears the Examiner is corresponding the link determination history with the list in the table of the preferred link or link set for a message, and corresponding the link determination data with the list in the table of the alternative available link or link sets. However, Glitho does not update the link determination history and link determination data after each link selection, as recited in independent claim 13. Rather, Glitho specifically states that the routing table is "static".

In contrast to Glitho, according to embodiments of the present invention, in the case that more than two links are available in a link set of a route from each signal transfer point of a No. 7 signaling network to a certain destination point, a link is selected using the link determination history and link determination data, so that the signal traffic is distributed to all available links of the link set. The link determination history and link determination data are then updated. It may, thus, be possible to prevent signal traffic from being concentrated at a certain signal link as the links are selected based on the updated link determination history and link determination data according to embodiments of the present invention.

Accordingly, at least one difference between embodiments of the present invention and Glitho lies in determining a link. That is, Glitho uses a "static" table displaying a plurality of substitute paths as well as a primary path, while, according to embodiments of the present invention, traffic is distributed by using the link determination history and link determination data. Distributing traffic using the link determination history and link determination data prevents concentration of the traffic to one specific link in selecting various paths.

Qui is cited as teaching "a system wherein the routing table of a network is update[d] over time." The Examiner concludes that "[i]t would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to update the routing tables of Glitho, as taught in Qui, because doing so would make sure that the table is current and thus prevent sending messages through old and possibly erroneous paths, thus improving the reliability of the Qui system."

However, Qui is directed to updating information for primary/alternate routing paths, while the claimed invention of independent claim 13 is directed to updating link determination history and link determination data. That is, the claimed invention uses link determination

history and link determination data to select a link of a link set and then updates link determination history and link determination data. This may prevent concentration to a specific link of the present invention. This is different from simply updating table information, and thus, the Examiner's rejection is inappropriate and should be withdrawn.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 13 over the Glitho-Qui combination should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 14-19 are allowable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 13, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Carol L. Druzbeck, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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